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CIA CHIEF CALLS FOR THIRD WORLD COUNTER-STRATEGY AGAINST SOVIE
BY JIM DRINKARD

The United States has failed to properly confront the challenge of the Soviet Union in third-world countries and now must develop "a realistic counter-strategy" for that ideological battleground, Central Intelligence Agency director William Casey said Saturday.

"It is past time for the American government - executive branch and Congress - to take the Soviet challenge in the third world seriously and to develop a broad, integrated strategy for countering it," Casey said in a speech released by his Washington office.

Casey said the United States must raise the priority of developing nations in its foreign policy, advise them "firmly but tactfully" about the need for standards of human rights and government honesty and mobilize what he called "our greatest asset in the third world - private business."

He used the speech at Westminster College in Fulton, Mo., to address the same issue first raised at the small college by Winston Churchill, who delivered his famous "Iron Curtain" speech there in the same lecture series in 1946.

The CIA director said that since Churchill's day, new communist threats have sprouted around the globe, from Vietnam to Africa to Central America.

He said that beginning in the mid 1970s, the Soviets launched a strategy aimed at developing countries. "And their strategy has worked."

"How much more alarmed would Churchill be if he looked around the world today and saw how the Soviets have grown in strength and how far they have extended their power and influence beyond the Iron Curtain he so aptly labeled," said Casey.

Casey's message also reinforced in general terms the Reagan administration's defense for keeping troops deployed in Lebanon and Grenada: that they are essential to hold back Soviet influence and allow citizens to freely choose their own governments.

Much of the present Soviet strategy, Casey said, involves use of surrogate forces from Cuba, East Germany, Libya and Vietnam in roles from combat soldier and terrorist to teacher and administrator. And the Soviets have become the world's leading supplier of arms, he said.

"Yet the Soviet Union is crippled," Casey told the college audience. "It is crippled in having only a military dimension. It has not been able to deliver economic, political or cultural benefits at home or abroad."

Casey said the United States must begin to pay greater attention to the problems of third world nations, which buy 40 percent of U.S. exports, "before

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